AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend claims 22 and 25 as follows. For convenience of prosecution, unamended pending claims 1, 4, 13-21, 23-24, and 25-31 are also shown below so that all of the pending claims can be easily viewed together. Claim 11, which was inadvertently left out in the amendment of March 27, 2002 is also included in its original form.

1. A hot swappable blade comprising:

an enableable power supply having enable and power input terminals and a power output terminal, to provide power to circuitry on the blade connected to the power output terminal in response to receiving an enable signal on the enable terminal;

a connector having first, second and third pin/sockets, the first pin/socket being longer than the second and third pin/sockets;

the first and second pins/sockets being operatively coupled to the power input terminal of the enableable power supply and the third pin/socket operatively coupled to the enable terminal of the enableable power supply; and

an impedance element connected between the first pin/socket and the power input terminal.

4. The blade defined by claim 1 wherein the third pin/socket is approximately the same length as the second pin socket.

5. The blade defined by claim 4 wherein the connector includes a plurality of fourth pins/sockets for receiving data, the fourth pins/sockets having a length intermediate between the first and second pins/sockets.

B

6. The blade defined by claim 1 wherein the connector includes a plurality of data pins/sockets for receiving data, the data pins/sockets having a length intermediate between the first and second pins/sockets.

11. The blade defined by claim 1 wherein the power supply is a DC-to-DC converter.

13. A system comprising:

a backplane bus;

a plurality of blades each having a connector to engage the backplane bus including two management blades (MBs) and a plurality of other blades (OBs);

each connector having first pins/sockets of a first length, second pins/sockets of a second length and third pins/sockets of a third length; the first length being the longest length, the third pins/sockets being the shortest length and the second length being longer than the third length and shorter than the first length;

the backplane bus having power lines which cooperatively engage one of the first pins/sockets and one of the third pins/sockets on each of the blades.

14. The system defined by claim 13 wherein data is communicated among the blades over the backplane bus through the second pins/sockets on each of the blades.

15. The system defined by claim 13 wherein each of the blades includes a resistor connected to the one of the first pins/sockets that receives power from the power line.

16. The system defined by claim 15 wherein each of the OBs provides a signal indicating its presence in the backplane over one of the third pins/sockets.

B

17. The system defined by claim 16 wherein each of the OBs includes a DC-to-DC converter which is enabled by an enable signal received over one of the third pins/sockets from the backplane bus.

18. The system defined by claim 17 wherein the enable signals for the OBs originates from one of the MBs.

19. The system defined by claim 17 wherein each of the OBs provides a signal to at least one of the MBs indicating the status of its DC power.

20. The system defined by claim 13 wherein the system is a server.

21. The system defined by claim 19 wherein the system is a server.

22. (Amended) The system defined by claim 18 including an additional bus connecting to the MBs.

23. The system defined by claim 22 wherein signals indicating the health of the MBs is communicated over the additional bus.

24. The system defined by claim 23 wherein the OBs include a plurality of central processing unit blades and a plurality of switch blades.

25. (Amended) The blade of claim 1, wherein the circuitry includes a processor, and the connector includes a reset pin/socket by which a reset signal may be received to reset the processor.

26. The blade of claim 1, wherein the blade may be used in a system including a backplane to which the blade may be connected via the connector, and the connector further includes a presence pin/socket used for determining if the blade is properly connected to the backplane.

27. The blade of claim 1, wherein the connector further includes a power good pin/socket by which the blade can assert a power good signal.

28. The blade of claim 1, wherein the connector further includes a health pin/socket by which the blade can assert a health signal signifying the health or failure of the blade.

29. The blade of claim 1, further comprising a failure light-emitting diode (LED) by which the blade can indicate a failure status.

30. The system of claim 13, wherein one of the two management blades initially operates as an active management blade and the other operates as a standby management blade, and wherein the standby management blade is configured to monitor an operating status of the active management blade, and in response to determining the primary management blade is not operating properly, the system enables the standby management blade to take over operations previously performed by the active management blade, thus becoming a new active management blade.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the system is further configured to annunciate a status indicator on the management blade that is initially the active management blade in response to detection that that blade has failed.